

The Merging of the Kingdoms

REVELATION 21

1-8 The result of the baptism of fire on the earth many ages beyond the Millennium of Peace is a completely new atmosphere and a changed surface on the planet, the elements having been dissolved and changed with fervent heat (*Rev. 20:9, II Pet. 3:12*). The elements will be different from what we now see. The atmosphere we know will have been consumed and replaced by a new atmosphere of different composition. The temperature will be much higher than now. And there will be no more oceans of water on the earth – not any water. The earth will be launched into a new realm of activity in space in its onward progress in God's ordained purpose. The earth will then be ready for further manifestation of life, but of a different nature from that which now exists on it. All forms of life as we now know them will be extinct.

Yet we see here in *Revelation 21* that the earth will again be peopled by a new humanity, a humanity of deathless beings not dependent upon air or water for life. Life, which God is, is not handicapped by an absence of an atmosphere and temperature similar to our own. At the time of the new atmosphere and new earth, the heavenly Kingdom and the earthly Kingdom will be merged into one, for the Lord's plan of these ages will have been completed and He then moves to inaugurate a new order. Then shall the visible be merged into the invisible and the two shall become one realm (*Eph. 1:10*) in which the matured and fully instructed sons of God shall begin a new phase of His plan, a plan beyond our capability to understand at the present time. In its initial stages, this uniting of heaven and earth begins with the Millennium, but its complete fulfillment waits for *all* the former things to pass away.

After our earth has been renovated by fire and the atmosphere and oceans are no more, the new form of humanity will pass through its final schooling in the manipulation of the basic elements (still primitive by comparison to what they will become), refining, changing, and even creating new ones. So very few today have ever realized the awe inspiring truth and the tremendous dynamic in God's words, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him." Since we are not to worship the image, we know that the begotten human spirit within is destined for the stature of its Divine Parent. The human spirit is eventually to be a creator, as is its Father.

Though we were permanently expelled from school in the early years by a hideous misdemeanor, through the unfathomable love of a Father and the unspeakable suffering of a Savior, the way has been prepared for our reinstatement and concluding education. For all those who accept His sacrifice, this final education will take place on the renovated earth during the eons of time which follow.

Incidental to being cast down to earth and into the material realm, we have come into

possession of a physical body. The powers of that “engine” operated by the spirit are to become transcendent. In our graduation exercises on the renovated earth, we shall approximate the power potential of Archangels, though they are older by countless eons. Our Father and Savior will have clipped an “eternity” from our schooling and growing up – by paying a terrifyingly high price on the Cross to benefit you and me!

Today the scientists use their atom smashers and watch for the formation of elements new to their understanding. The son of the new humanity will need no such crude toy. He will use his own very physical body, so fantastically perfected that he will not only be able to smash atoms, but will be able to assemble them according to the desired functioning and planned purpose of application. Then, the new humanity will be able to form and incorporate living material as sensitive as is our sympathetic nervous system into mechanical-electronic equipment. Such a machine would fully obey every thought of its maker. Or it could be used by an angelic entity as effectively as we use our own bodies. Graduating masters of that age will be able to instantly dissolve material objects and reassemble or materialize them where wanted.

When, in the eons to come, a sufficient number of the master-sons have graduated, their combined capabilities will be adequate to fully transform the entire earth substance and it will then flux at their will, as living substance in the hands of God. That will be the commencement of a new and super-physical *universe*! That will be the Edenic Paradise arena for the full-grown sons of Jesus Christ. In that Paradise, there will be no more sorrow, no more pain, no more tears and no more death. Because all of the preparatory schooling will have been completed and all of the training will have been accepted, there is then no longer any need for parental disciplining. The sons will have come of age and conduct themselves as the Father taught them. All of those former things will have passed away. The first phase of the larger work will have been completed and so the Father can again say, “It is done – finished.”

“He who overcomes shall inherit all these things, and I will be God to him and he shall be My son” (*Rev. 21:7*). This is the eighth and consummating promise. It is to the overcomer who continues beyond the attainments in the first seven levels of overcoming (*Rev. 2* and *3*). Light is the number of regeneration. For the ambitious Christian, regeneration is more than an event; it is a subsequent process. The process phase is for already “born again” Christians and it is for today. It is for a restructuring of the whole physical body, cell by cell, through overcoming residual carnality and its resultant misuse and waste of Life in the life-seed.

An absolute regeneration is the ultimate objective of God for the earth phase of man’s training. Immortal life was lost through Adam’s misuse of the fruit of the tree of lives (billions). Immortal life is to be reinstated, by God’s grace, through a re-directed flow of that life to every cell in the body – after being transformed and powered by the glorified seed of Christ in the “born again” Christian heart. He who overcomes all shall inherit all, be completely kept safe, all needs provided, and participate as a grown son with his Father in His work.

The Lord is the One Who begins the work and He is the One Who is the Completer and Finisher of the work. In Him is the beginning and the end, the last. Then at that stage, the eighth covenant is put into effect. There were seven prior covenants given to the overcomer, but the eighth is the consummation of all into that of full sonship. There are degrees of overcoming of attachments and loyalties to worldly possessions, to close

relatives and friends, and to sensual pleasures (*Matt. 19:29*). Our loving Father, incarnate in Jesus Christ, overcame *all* things (*Jn. 16:33*), coming into the measure of the eighth Covenant. He also made that possible for us, during our lifetime, through the drawing into achieved righteousness by His glorified Life-seed when planted in the human heart. The graduated son is to inherit *all* things. But all who before willfully and persistently refused to cooperate with the Father and conform themselves to His plan for their greatest good finally are subjected to the ultimate in discipline and lose their physical and soul bodies in the trying and destruction of all which cannot stand in the presence of the glory of the Lord.

THE NEW JERUSALEM

9-10 Twice John sees the New Jerusalem descend out of heaven (*Rev. 21:2, 9-10*). The descent first viewed is that which follows the new atmosphere and the new earth, for John is recording a panoramic view of the sweep of history into the ultimate of the Lord's plan for the earth. The descent of the New Jerusalem after the new atmosphere and the new earth shows the City as a Bride adorned for her Husband – not the Lamb anymore (*Rev. 21:2*). But the initial descent, related to the inception of the Millennial Age now drawing nigh, shows the City as the Bride, *the Lamb's wife* (*Rev. 21:9*).

Jesus is seen as the Lamb in our day and until the Millennial Kingdom is fully inaugurated. But then the Redeemer function is completed and He is no longer seen as a Lamb after that time, or in the ages to come. Immediately following the panoramic projection into the distant future, one of the seven angels who had the seven Bowls of Wrath shows John another view of the holy Jerusalem descending and gives him a detailed view of its construction (*Rev. 21:9-22:7*). The association of this angel, one who poured out one of the last Plagues, with the vision to John, indicates the scene described is one that will take place at the close of the present age in preparation for the Millennial reign. The *Revelation 21:1-4* over-all vision will not become fact for many ages yet. The relationship of the *Revelation 21:9* first descent to the initiation of the Millennial reign is also shown in that this detailed picture of the New Jerusalem and its influence upon the earth are portrayed as things to be done shortly. Immediately the added injunction is given by the Lord Jesus, "*Behold, I come quickly*" (*Rev. 22:6-7*). These statements are specifically related to the present age and its consummation.

At the appointed time when the heavenly New Jerusalem had entered the earth's atmosphere, the Kingdom which had been prepared *began* its function in full power to cause the earth to be drawn into a new orbit of rectification and restitution. There is a delicate balance in both the physical and moral spheres of existence – the balance being dependent on numerous factors which must be kept in constant surveillance.

In times past the Lord has visited the earth with judgment, because man's iniquity had reached the measure allowable in God's wisdom and providence. He had to make an end, lest man's wickedness would go so far as to endanger the very balance which God had established in the universe. Each sphere in the physical universe must be kept properly balanced and properly adjusted to all other spheres, so that one does not en-

danger another, and so that all work together in precision to accomplish that which the Lord has predetermined. There is a constant watch over the universe so that not one sphere begins to swerve too far in any way from its proper orbit. If the orbit were to extend too far beyond the limits decreed, the sphere would not only endanger itself but many other spheres as well, and the resultant chaos would be incalculable.

A certain amount of variation in orbit pattern is allowable within each family of spheres, but from time to time adjustments have to be made. Even as the planet earth has been permitted to veer slightly in its orbit because of factors which are involved in its destiny, so the Lord will adjust the earth's orbit slightly in the near future because of the great changes that are to come upon it. Many eons ago, before the manifestation of sin, the earth was in a slightly different orbit than now, the present orbit being a result of the manifestation of sin upon earth. All Creation is in travail because of man's sin, and the very sphere upon which sin was manifested has been affected by that sin. In type, the present orbit of the earth represents man's own orbit-in-violation which the Lord has allowed to develop. But just as He cannot allow the earth's orbit to deviate too far from its original course, so He cannot allow man's own orbit-in-violation to extend beyond the safety limits which have been determined and decreed in the light of the Lord's purpose. If man's own orbit-in-violation should be permitted to extend too far, it would be very difficult to mitigate the consequences, and the resultant chaos would be unredeemable for many millennia to come.

Now again God is making known that man's iniquity has almost reached the allowable limit to which it can go without intervention on His part. That judgment is even now on its way. Man's wickedness, having come to the full measure, is shortly to be cut off; the orbit-in-violation which the Lord has allowed will not be permitted to extend any further. All nations are soon to drink of God's fierce wrath and indignation; all sinners will be cut off and iniquity shall be put down. Even now all things are being made ready, for the heavenly hosts are preparing for the day of retribution and judgment which is coming. Once more our Lord will visit the earth to confound the imaginations of the proud and put a stop to the vain delusions of those blinded by sin's deceptions. Time is short; earth is heavy with its iniquity. Surely it shall reel to and fro in its orbit as its iniquity is judged and its wickedness comes to its full in the day of wrath and judgment (*Isa. 24:20*).

All things that all the Prophets have spoken during all the ages must be fulfilled (*Acts 3:21*). As the earth is drawn into its new orbit of righteousness and the Kingdom begins to function in full power, the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall begin to fill the earth as the waters cover the sea (*Hab. 2:14*). And the glory of the Lord will be centered in the New Jerusalem which is to descend out of heaven to the earth (*Rev. 21:2,10-11*).

The New Jerusalem has been in preparation many years, with an inception even before the beginning of the Christian era (*Heb. 11:10,16*). Its foundations were being laid at the time that the city of Jerusalem in Palestine was becoming the center of the Kingdom of ancient Israel. It was begun during those days that David caused the city to be fully taken, and began to build it as the city of the kings and as the governmental center of the Chosen People. During those same days, the Jerusalem above (*Gal. 4:26*) also began to exert its influence upon the affairs of the earth, for as it is in heaven so must it be on earth (*Matt. 6:10*). All that is earthly is patterned after the heavenly (*Heb.*

8:5, 9:23-24) and, in measure, the earthly Jerusalem has at times been a reflection of the Jerusalem in the heavenlies.

Since the beginning of the Christian era, when Paradise above was opened to the redeemed saints, much work on the New Jerusalem has been carried on. Those who have drawn close enough to our Lord to have gained sufficient attunement with its vibratory pitch or radiation frequency and whose “power-projection” has reached the necessary output, have been able to handle and channel the pulsating substance-material out of which the New Jerusalem is being formed. Only those attuned to the beauty of its realm, and highly skilled in thought and emotion projection can ever be used to build that Celestial City.

It was Jesus Christ Who gave the information that He would go away to prepare a place for those who would later join Him. He said He would later come to receive those so that they could be with Him where He would be at that time. He also said we *do* know the way (*Jn. 14:1-4*). Then He spoke of Himself as being The Way. Jesus said He is a builder – He even incarnated as the son of a carpenter.

But how does He build and what material does He use? In *Genesis 1*, it is stated that the Spirit of God vibrated upon the face of the waters. We know that all matter, light, heat, etc. are vibrational energy. He created, then, by means of vibrations under control. Therefore, He must also build now by the same means, for God does not change with the ages (*Mal. 3:6*). We read in *Psalms 82:6* and *John 10:34* that we too are gods. And we read that mankind was created, made in the image of the Gods (*Gen. 1:27*). If this is true, then we too are builders, with vibration.

Spirit-illuminated Paul wrote that man is without excuse in gaining understanding of how God operates in the spiritual realm. We are to know of so many things of God’s ways by what we see in the physical, right here before our eyes (*Rom. 1:19-20, Ps. 19:1*). Jesus also spoke of the same in *Matthew 6:10*, “... *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*” Paul also mentioned that man experiences the physical first and then is made aware of the spiritual (*I Cor. 15:46*). He additionally declared the spiritual is that which is enduring and the physical, while seemingly real, is but temporary (*II Cor. 4:18*).

What is experienced on earth in physical life has its impact on the spiritual realm. Vibrations build things on earth as well as in the operations arena of the Spirit (*Jer. 22:13*). For example, the seed of a selfish and ugly thought takes root in the human heart. Perhaps it leads to a theft of some magnitude. As a consequence, one or more lies are told to save face and maybe evade man’s law. Even the lie itself becomes the cause of other effects. Perhaps the theft becomes the cause for a term in a prison, the effect following the cause. That term in prison then becomes the cause which brings into effect a changed course of life which might well be termed an unending cycle of cause and effect. All this is built because of one selfish and ugly thought-desire taking root within the human heart and bringing forth its fruit into evil! If one ugly thought can build the unbeautiful during an entire life, can the effect of what is good, true and beautiful stop at the moment of the event? Of course not! Jesus said He would go and build mansions for the ones for whom He bled and died.

Again we face the question. What material does He use in the building, and what is its source? What is the substance of that material? And what is the “law” of the

building? In **Revelation 21:9-10**, the angel showed John that the Bride, the wife of the Lamb, *is* the City of the New Jerusalem. It was not said that the beautiful City had been prepared as a gift for the Bride, but is itself the Bride. The wife of the Lamb is the City. But long ago, Jesus said He would go away and begin building. It is logical to assume that when the Palace in its full dimensions is complete, the Bride will be brought there to possess it. But remember that God does not wave a magic wand; His processes are by plan and according to immutable law. What He brings into being, He *develops* into its finished state. If the Holy City *is* the wife of the Lamb, then the material used in its construction must be material supplied by the Bride. Otherwise, it would not be said that the City is the Bride. The Bride too must be a builder and supplier of material.

We are gods; therefore, we are builders by vibration. But the building can be that of wood, stubble, hay; *or* it can be of gold, silver, and precious stones – if we are wise (**I Cor. 3:12-15**). It is the valuable which constitutes the very substance of the building which is the Lamb's wife. Thought is vibration. Desire is another mode of vibration. Words are vibration. Deeds are the outcome of thought and desire and they bring about very much vibration! All of this is a form of creating by the little gods which we are. Some of the substance of the material which we are producing is unusable by the Master Architect-Builder, but momentarily it is permitted to linger while waiting for the destroying flame. Yet other of the material produced in the crucible and extracted from the retort becomes fit for the Master's use.

But here, as in the heavenlies, the building must be done on a foundation, or it cannot stand. First there must be the impregnable foundation, Jesus Christ, laid once and for all (**I Cor. 3:11**). It is on *that* that we build and become God's building (**I Cor. 3:9**). Obviously, if our work of building is not set upon the one and only Foundation which God graciously provided, such building can never become God's building. So it behooves us to appropriate the one and only Foundation acceptable to God and boldly put all of our labors to that which will endure through time and eternity, being founded on that impregnable Rock.

Let's take another example. You have a thought of doing good, even a minor good such as visiting an aged widow in her solitude. Suddenly the Spirit stirs desire within your heart. Then thought and desire are fused into one, bearing fruit into action. The desire is not for self, but for another. This thought-desire embryo within has a special vibrational pitch which is keyed to the Being of Christ our Lord. As that vibration strikes or passes through the vortex of His own fire-core, it receives an added dynamic which adds tone and luster and life to that substance in process of formation. As the deed is performed, the substance is nourished to greater proportion. And also, the appreciation of the kind deed wells up from another heart with a blessing, spoken or unspoken, and pinpoints of light find and pierce the substance of your making, until it glistens with the light of beauty.

This becomes the *available* substance used by Jesus Christ in building the New Jerusalem, which is the Bride of Christ. Therefore, it is said the City *is* the wife of the Lamb. The Bride and the City become synonymous terms, in substance but not factually. It is a picture analogous to the tortoise and its shell. The shell is not the actual tortoise, yet it is its substance and a portion of it; we look at the part we can see and speak of it as the tortoise. In a somewhat similar sense, the City of God becomes the Bride.

We are the producers. We supply the precious substance which forms the lustrous metals and gems used by the Master Builder. We are the artisans fashioning the mighty beams of pure silver and gold which were produced in the crucible and tested by the fire of His Spirit and Truth and Love. We are the craftsmen cutting the many facets on rare jewels and gems far beyond the reach of a monarch's purse in worth. And Christ our Lord is the Master Architect of the greater structure known as the New Jerusalem or the Bride of Christ. His messengers bear these precious treasures out to where the New Jerusalem pattern or mold is being filled.

The material is streaming in from the 144,000 sources. The grandeur of the edifice is mounting up and spreading out under the hand of Jesus Christ. But what are the dimensions of the suite being prepared for you? Is it small and cramped, with sparse furnishings? Are its walls bare of hangings? These matters are dependent on the amount or volume of your good and true thoughts which fuse with desire in the love of His being, and bear fruit in good works. If you love roominess and expensive draperies and a floor clean and precious and translucent without one speck of dust showing, the darling of Jesus Christ had better get a move on with alacrity, being up and about the Father's business, for you will have only what you are providing.

If you are building in the New Jerusalem, it is but yourself externalized in all that you are within, which the fire cannot consume. That which will not take the crucible heat of His Spirit must pass away and you will suffer loss. But the precious stones are from the beauty of kindness and compassion and the glory of mercy. And the fire tested metals, fluxing by His Spirit are from the beauty of goodness and truth bathed in the fragrance of love. All these He rears especially for you into that mansion which you are – externalized in Heaven's land of Glory. Will you open your mouth and shoot off your face foolishly? Will you spend your time alone for Mammon (possessions) channeled to self that your building will break down and be consumed and you be found naked, only to start again in the eons impending. Or do you hear the tapping on the door and let the Stranger in? Then in that Divine fellowship, a life enraptured in delight shall bloom and yield a needlework of fine wrought gold (*Ps. 45:9-15*).

It should be made clear that the heaven known as Paradise is not the same as the New Jerusalem. Many have entered Paradise, but none live in the New Jerusalem where the Throne of Jesus Christ is located. And none shall live there, until the Bride is taken in by the Bridegroom. Paradise, as a waiting place for souls having lost their physical bodies in death, was first opened up at Calvary. Before Calvary, there were no redeemed humans in the realm of Paradise. All who previously had lived on earth were confined to the realm of Sheol, within and around the earth planet. Even those whose souls had been redeemed through animal sacrifices had to remain in that nether realm, until sin's ransom price was paid in full by the sacrifice of the Son of God. Only then could they be liberated into the realm of Paradise above.

The confinement or separation is pictured in Scripture by the cities of refuge which were designed on both sides of the Jordan to provide protection for those seeking refuge, until justice could be meted out. Places of refuge were planned for the living earth-limited, but also for the dead in Sheol who later were taken to Paradise. Those found worthy of continued protection remained in the city of refuge until the death of the High Priest in office at that time. Then they were free to return to their homes (*Num. 35:25-28*).

This arrangement for protection was a type of that provided in the unseen realm before the Cross of Calvary; there were “cities of refuge” in the nether realm for those whose sins had been remitted through the blood sacrifices. There they were protected from hateful and savage attacks of both the evil demon spirits and unredeemed humans. But they had to remain in these places of refuge, until the death of Jesus Christ, the antitypical High Priest. Then they were freed to be taken to the waiting place which had been prepared in Paradise above. For that reason Jesus Christ descended first into the lower parts of the earth and led from captivity the captives (*Eph. 4:8*). He led from Sheol inside the earth those who (even though saved) were still kept captive within the environs of the earth because the full liberating price had not been paid. But after His death and resurrection, He personally led the saints of the pre-Christian eras to their new home in Paradise. Thus He gave men “gifts” which, although including much more, provided a new home for those led forth from Sheol. After placing the saints in Paradise, Jesus ascended far above all heavens (*Eph. 4:10*).

There are several heavens (*II Cor. 12:1-4*) and they are not all far off beyond some distant star. Two are invisible realms or “strata” surrounding and superimposed upon the earth, one above the other, progressing out or away from the earth and also progressing “up” into higher vibrational pitches until the celestial heaven is reached. The upper *earth-centered* heaven, Paradise, is beyond the earth’s atmospheric envelope, some 4500 miles out, and is beyond the reach of Satanic spirits who occupy the area immediately surrounding and within the earth. Satan is titled “*the prince of the power of the air*” (*Eph. 2:2*), indicating the limits of his dominion closely approximate that volume within the earth’s atmosphere, out to about 4500 miles.

Since the death and resurrection of Christ, the saved who die go directly to Paradise which Jesus called “*Abraham’s bosom*” (*Lk. 16:22*), conveying the idea of comfort and rest. But since Paradise is only the first heaven from the perspective of those leaving the earth’s sphere, it is not the inner realm of the Most High God. Neither is it synonymous with those outer realms or strata which are reserved for beings who have never been tainted with sin. Paradise corresponds to the garden realm *outside* the Palace grounds of the King and *outside* the realms of those who are in His full service. However, it is a realm of great beauty and peace. The scenery is quite similar to that of earth, yet more pulsating and “alive,” yielding more to the creative powers of thought and the inner dynamic of beautiful character externalized. It corresponds on the plane of the soul to the “paradise” of the garden of Eden which was lost by men of flesh.

Thus, those whose souls are redeemed are permitted a re-entry, in measure, into a sinless Paradise, but full entrance to the lost estate does not come until the redemption of the physical body. Only then is there full entry into the Kingdom prepared for those who love the Lord. The inner realms of the King’s grounds cannot be opened, except to those who enter into the ultimate of physical redemption, which is glorification of the body of flesh. The development to required maturity is on earth, not in Paradise (*Mk. 4:28*), until the physical body is fashioned as Christ’s glorious body (*Phil. 3:21*).

Those who are yet functioning only in the secondary vehicle called the soul are confined to the realm of Paradise. But while waiting for completed redemption, the redeemed in Paradise engage in many useful pursuits. The most important is the work being done to become willing and ready to complete the balance of one’s training on the earth plane so as to promptly qualify for immortal earthlife and later for a glorified body.

The New Jerusalem above began to exercise a more pronounced influence on the course of earth events in the days of the Messiah. Although then in its elementary stages, with foundation and rudimentary superstructure only, it was lowered into the earth's atmosphere and became the guiding star which led the wise men from the East to the place where Jesus was born. The New Jerusalem is a Celestial City and cannot be seen by physical eyes, except under certain conditions. When coming into contact with the earth's atmosphere, it emits a glory glow which can be activated into the vibratory range visible to the human eye, appearing as a light or star. This seemed to have occurred again in 1971 reportedly being viewed during the Apollo 14 flight and subsequently. (For more information, write to Shepherdsfield Publishers.) The New Jerusalem is now in its second descent into the earth's atmosphere and it is ready for occupancy by those who are to be in the Heavenly Kingdom, ruling and reigning with Christ. It is to become the home and headquarters of the heavenly government which will rule over the inhabitants of the earth. It will be established in a special polarity with the Jerusalem on earth. Then the two Jerusalems, one in the heavenlies and one on earth, will provide the means for bringing the entire earth realm into the fullness of God's purpose.

At the beginning of the Millennium, the New Jerusalem will have descended into the upper atmosphere, to remain there until near its close. Then after Satan is released from the bottomless pit and goes about to deceive nations (**Rev. 20:7-9**), it will again be withdrawn from the vicinity of the earth and away from Satan's realm of influence.

After the final rebellion and the earth's baptism of fire, the New Jerusalem will once again descend to earth, following the establishment of the new atmosphere and the changed earth (**Rev. 21:1-2**). At that time the New Jerusalem will not remain in the upper atmosphere as during the Millennium, but will descend to the very environs of the earth, bringing about the final fulfillment of the prophecy, "Behold, the abode of God is with men (the new humanity not requiring air or water) and He will dwell with them and they shall be His people, and God shall personally be with them and be their God. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death and sorrow shall be no more; neither shall there be sorrow (anguish) or grief or pain anymore, for the former order of things has passed away. And He Who is seated on the Throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new'" (**Rev. 21:3-5; Isa. 25:8, 35:10; Ezek. 37:26-27**).

This later and final descent of the New Jerusalem is pictured as the Holy City descending out of heaven from God, prepared as a Bride adorned for her Husband (**Rev. 21:2**). This then is that ultimate union of heaven and earth which is the goal of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, in which man is fully reunited with his Creator and Heavenly Father and where the effects of sin upon the earth and earth-man are completely undone. The beginning of this union is shown through the Prophet Isaiah as the marriage of the land and of earthly Israel with redeemed and glorified sons. "**. . . for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you. And as the Bridegroom rejoices over the Bride, so shall your God rejoice over you**" (**Isa. 62:4-5**). The "sons" here are glorified humans who have been joined to the Lord in the New Jerusalem. Their union in the heavenly Kingdom is also likened to that of a Bride and Bridegroom (**Rev. 19:7**). But later, there is to be a further joining together when the heavenly City descends to be united with the earth. Then the glorified sons in heavenly Jerusalem shall be joined in the likeness of marriage to the virgin daughter of the earthly Jerusalem, the cleansed and

restored remnant of Israel living in the land of Palestine in those days. In this way, the Lord will also be united to His *earthly*, glorified people as Bridegroom and Bride, for as it is in heaven so must it be on earth. Just as the Lord is to have a heavenly Bride in the Jerusalem above, so also will He have afterward an earthly Bride in the Jerusalem below.

The New Jerusalem is first and foremost the City of the heavenly Bride (the first redeemed and glorified Manchild). Although not all who will live there are to fulfill the role of the Bride, they all will be closely related to the Bride company. The Bride will remain close to her Lord, taking charge of the affairs of the Holy City, for that is her domain. Others, not a part of the Bride company, will be engaged in direct overseeing of the affairs of the earth, being sent on missions to earth to carry out their responsibilities and then return. In addition to many duties relating to the Holy City itself, the Bride will be used in specific ways that relate to the eternal-life-begetting of those who are inhabiting the earth after the Millennial Kingdom has been established. She will be periodically engaged in mothering many who will grow up on earth and enter maturity and manifest sonship without ever entering sin (*Gal. 4:26; Heb. 11:16, 12:22-23, 13:14*). Except for these periodic mothering visits to the earth, the Bride's sphere of service will be within her own Celestial City.

The City is made of glorified substances that are related more to the invisible and heavenly than to the visible and earthly, and the city is not dependent upon the sun for natural light (*Rev. 21:23*). The light which floods the Celestial City emanates from the very being of the Lord Himself. He is seen as "the Lamb" because the New Jerusalem Bride and her retinue are the direct fruit of His sacrifice on the behalf of sinful humanity.

But it is also noted that the *glory* of God lights the City. As God, the Lord is the *Keeper* of the City and its inhabitants, and His glory provides for its light. The glory is that light-projection, vibrational, radiational, or out-lying substance (*Heb. 1:3* Literal) which carries the power-essence of Deity to accomplish the many things related to the fulfillment of His will. Since the vibrational pitch of this glory-substance can vary within a very wide band, it can be present, unseen by earthly eyes, or it can also be projected into the frequencies of physical vision. It can be increased or decreased in size or extent of band coverage, or it can be segmented so that the portions can be in different places for different purposes. It was this glory that descended upon Mt. Sinai and was seen by the people of Israel as a cloud and at times as fire (*Ex. 19:9,18; 24:15-18*). It was a portion of this glory-substance which led the Israelites through the wilderness and which stayed within and upon the Tabernacle (*Num. 9:15-23*). It was seen by Ezekiel in connection with the appearance of the cherubim (*Ezek. 1:4-5*). It filled the Temple of Solomon on its dedication day (*1 Ki. 8:10-11*). And it was seen leaving the Temple in the day of Israel's apostasy (*Ezek. 10:18, 11:23*). It was upon Jesus as He was transfigured before Peter, James and John (*Matt. 17:5*). And it will be visibly apparent to the surviving inhabitants of the earth as the "sign" of the Son of man (the shining of the New Jerusalem) shortly before He is seen in person (*Matt. 24:30*). A portion of this glory-substance is imparted to every Christian who is sanctified (set apart) by the fiery Spirit Baptism which also is pictured by the glory-cloud on the Tabernacle (*Ex. 29:43, 40:34*).

This glory light will not only permeate the New Jerusalem, but will radiate from it even in the portions of the vibration band which are visible to human eyes. Therefore,

it will shine and be seen by earth inhabitants as a light in the sky at night. The nations of them that are saved shall walk in the light of it (*Rev. 21:24*). These nations which are united together in the Kingdom Confederacy, with the Jerusalem government at the head, will not only see this emanation but shall “walk” in harmony with the spiritual oversight and light of understanding to be provided by glorified humans who will descend from the Celestial City to shepherd earth’s inhabitants. Only the nations in the Kingdom Confederacy will receive full benefit of this spiritual illumination and oversight. Other nations will be shepherded as with a “rod of iron” (*Rev. 2:27*) and kept under constant surveillance and regulation by the Jerusalem above, since they will not willingly and completely submit to all required for full Kingdom participation. The “rod of iron” will be the ability of the glorified ones to appear in the flesh to give needed directives, and back them up with power as necessary.

The kings or rulers of the earth who will bring their glory into the New Jerusalem (*Rev. 21:24*) are not earth-bound flesh and blood humans, but they are with glorified saints who are to be the kings and priests reigning over the earth (*Rev. 5:10*). Only these will have access to the New Jerusalem above and only these can bring their glory into it (*I Cor. 15:50*). Since many of the glorified saints will be engaged in going and coming to carry out their duties on the earth, the gates of the City will never be shut, and there will be no such thing as night in a realm that is not dependent upon the light of the sun nor affected by conditions on earth (*Rev. 21:23,25*).

The City is constructed of what might be called “glorified substances” composed of elements which have been processed until they are no longer coarse and dense as are earthly substances. The material is finely attenuated and refined to the ultimate, until it transcends the limits of the purely physical and earthly; yet it is a real substance brought forth on a higher plane of being. When the street of the City is described as pure gold, it is not just a figurative expression. The appearance of the street to John was not as the solid gold of earth, but rather it was translucent, similar to certain types of glass (*Rev. 21:21*). Likewise, the whole City (a perfect cube of approximately 1400 miles in each dimension) is constructed of this “glorified” pure gold (*Rev. 21:16,18*). There are many other truths relating to the City, the wall, its foundations and its gates not yet revealed.

: II The new City expresses the glory of God and so there is a symbolic significance attached to the stones and their colors, the wall, its gates, foundations, the street and the measurements. These represent various attributes or character qualities which are to have become the possession of every overcoming Christian who enters the Celestial City (*Isa. 54:12*). Stones reflect light in various hues. And overcomers are to have these various “color” qualities and formations built into their inner beings, colors which transmit the light and glory of Jesus Christ. It was from these color tones that Jesus as a man was able to know all men, for He knew what was in man (*Jn. 2:24-25*). He could see and understand the thought formations and emotional patterns which came forth in vibratory color shadings (*Matt. 9:4*).

Such formations and patterns in men vary greatly, from extremely ugly and grotesque to very beautiful, from unattractive blacks and dull greys to most pleasing coordinations of varieties of color and hue. These color tones, formations and patterns are individual envelopes around each person and they vary according to his “spiritual” condition (soul condition) as well as his physical condition. These envelopes show the “color” of the garment of the soul and exhibit that precise personality which each man

develops. Since the soul interpenetrates between the human spirit and the physical body, the potentially colorful envelopes are affected by the openness toward and acceptability of communication and impartation the Holy Spirit offers to the human soul for appropriation.

Many people who possess what is called extra-sensory perception can actually perceive these color patterns, known as auras. They can be seen by more people than most would imagine. And with training in soul-power, many a person can be enabled to see these forms of colored light or aura emanating from the surrounding physical body, especially around the head. However, no person should be encouraged to develop psychic abilities of any kind, even though some things seen and heard through psychic power may be true. The psychic is that of soul function and is especially subject to deceiving "angels of light" (*II Cor. 11:14-15*). Psychic phenomena which purport to be from God likely are not, but are works of satanic spirits. We are to divide between spirit and soul (*Heb. 4:12*), for God speaks to us only by His Word, the Law and the Testimony (His Spirit's operation), to the inner man's heart (the *new* creature).

He does not speak through self-developed soul powers, where delusive spirits can so easily work. People with natural psychic gifts need not be influenced by satanic spirits, but unless they are carefully and thoroughly taught the dangers of this realm and how to turn away from it to the Spirit workings of the Lord, they just naturally (through the carnal mind) become prey to the delusive spirits of the enemy.

Most of us have this psychic sense in a rudimentary form, for we can often sense or "feel" the aura emanating from another person even if we cannot see it, sometimes with accuracy, but often inaccurately. This personality atmosphere enveloping the person can be joyful and bright or dull or unpleasant. Some persons, even as children, see dim or bright light in varying colors around every other person, and these seeing persons may not realize that all others do not see as they see. Scientists have learned that many animals, particularly horses and dogs, see the auras of men, women and children with a sensitivity such that they are attracted, repelled or excited to fear or anger.

These enveloping radiations of the soul garment are the potentially visible projections of each person's thoughts and inner emotions. The spectrum of the aura color vibrations is related to the ultraviolet band. The aura is built up of several layers, each of which represents something about the individual's nature. The aura phenomenon is important from the aspect of personal application, for Scripture speaks of putting on *beautiful* garments, shaking off the dull dust (*Isa. 52:1-2*) and putting on the garments of praise instead of a heavy, burdened spirit (*Isa. 61:3*). The Word describes a man who clothes himself with cursing as with a garment (*Psa. 109:18-19*), and speaks of moth-eaten garments derived from thoughts concentrated on acquisition of riches (*Jms. 5:2*), and exhorts a fear and hate of garments spotted by the flesh (*Jude 23, Zech. 3:4*), spotted by thoughts, emotions and responses that are impure, lustful and bestial.

We, all of us, create for ourselves and are called to clothe ourselves and keep ourselves in lovely colored garments of light (*Rev. 7:14, 22:14*), or we will wear dull and ugly clothing or rags and tatters (*Isa. 64:6*). The garments are changed according to the way we shape and reshape our thoughts. The soul changes its clothes according to the company it keeps so we need to recognize clearly in what sort of clothes we are walking about and how they will appear to the Lord and how they will influence the body of Christians.

We should earnestly and prayerfully be concerned about the quality and display of our atmosphere or aura which surrounds our own person, because it does strongly affect our availability and usefulness as a reliable tool in the hand of the Lord to encourage and build up the Body (*I Cor. 5:7-8*). But in the consideration of psychic seeing of the condition of others, it should be well understood that the realm of the psychic is the realm of spiritism behind which are the deceiving spirits of Satan. It is a *very* dangerous realm and one subject to much mixture and deception. It is possible to begin to develop psychic power, thinking that which is received is from the Spirit of God when it is not. Many Spirit-filled Christians make that mistake. Since the pit has been opened (*Rev. 9:2*), the psychic atmosphere is literally teeming with activity, and Christians should be made aware of the dangers of this realm.

Nevertheless, from the condition of one's own aura it can be known whatever is wrong and affecting that one, and it is important to make that aura beautiful and healthy. When one's aura is close in and tight about his person, he is surely under assault by the enemy, but when a person is blessed and draws the Lord's protection upon himself, his aura is built up. Great blessing from the Lord builds up the personal aura even to ten feet high and six feet wide. Those who are cooperating and reaching to God for His promises are in the strongest position. As a man thinks in his heart (soul), so he is, and therefore a man should lead every thought captive into obedience to Christ so as to become like Him (*II Cor. 10:5*). He is to keep his mind active on those things which are true, on those things which are worthy of reverence and praise, and on those things which are just and pure and honorable and lovely and kind and virtuous (*Phil. 4:8*). The heavenly realm is one of *pure* colors and each has its own significance.

The Holy City is clothed in the glory of God and a radiance like that of a clear jasper (*Rev. 21:11*). Previously, John saw One sitting on the Throne Whose appearance was like a jasper and sardius (*Rev. 4:3*) and so, by the context of the two references, jasper radiance would indicate the glory of God made visible. Other Scripture tells of this time as a time when there will no longer be an inability or difficulty to hear God and to understand. The radiance shines clear as crystal, without a trace of a dulling mixture, and in that day overcomers will see God and know God (*Rev. 22:4, Isa. 40:5*).

: 12 The great high wall pictures the protection of God, as walls are symbolically used to denote our contemporary need for the defenses and protection of our Lord God Almighty during preparatory overcoming (*Neh. 1:3; Ezek. 13:5,10; Isa. 5:5, 26:1*). The wall also is of jasper (**:18**), indicating the reality of God's protection, so real it is visible. The wall is to include all that is within the City and to exclude all that has no rightful place there. It separates those things which belong there from those which do not, just as the new man in New Jerusalem is in God's Presence and cannot be influenced by anything outside. The serpent, Satan, cannot ever enter. A line must be drawn to differentiate that which is spiritual from that which is fleshly, for everything of the "world" must be excluded and everything of God is to be preserved. Separation (setting apart, but not isolation) is one of the most important principles in Christian living and it is one which Satan hates (*I Pet. 1:14-16, Heb. 12:14*). Nehemiah's workers had to hold a sword in one hand while building the walls of Jerusalem with the other, because of the strong opposition of the people outside the City (*Neh. 4:17-18*). Likewise, every Christian must appropriate the full armor of Jesus Christ in the battle against spiritual powers and wickedness, if he is to maintain the vital principle of separation (*Eph. 6:12-18, Jude 3*).

: 13 The wall is built with twelve gates, guarded by 12 angels, and on the gates are the “names” or nature of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. Ancient Israel was to have become a kingdom of earthly priests to God, a holy nation, set apart (*Ex. 19:6*). Replacement spiritual Israel of our time is to become a heavenly kingdom of priests to God, a royal race (*Rev. 1:6*). Salvation came out of the nation of ancient Israel and now comes through spiritual Israel (*Jn. 4:22, Rom. 2:28-29*). In its higher sense, “12” is the signature of God’s people, who have come to spiritual discernment through self-sacrifice. It is the number of separation from self-desire into consciously and happily choosing the will of God.

The three gates on each side provide for access and egress in each of the four directions, showing that the New Jerusalem is central to everything that is yet outside its walls. The “3” is the number of God’s Word. And North, East, South and West symbolize the planes of the physical, the intellect, the soul, and the human spirit respectively, each of which must make its entrance into the fullness of the things of God. The New Jerusalem is the masterpiece in the center of God’s plan for all men who are willing to prepare and come.

The gates are pearls. A pearl begins with overcoming an irritant; it is layer upon layer of overcoming. The pearl is the only way to enter. Assignments to the gates and jobs are according to qualification on earth. Of course, there are sure to be promotions, but some are to enter through one gate, some through another. A few will be permitted to enter through any of several gates. The twelve gates on the four sides become a restatement of the First Commandment.

: 14 The wall of the City, its protection and separation, has twelve foundations and on them are written the “names” or nature of the twelve Apostles (Special messengers) of the Lamb. They have spread the Good News of change of rule. This is their fulfillment. The foundations of the Jerusalem above were laid by our God. Only Divine wisdom and power can lay that which is foundational, whether that be in the heavens or on the earth (*I Cor. 3:11, Heb. 11:10*). Here we can see the massive qualities, the solidarity and the fundamental verity of the love and mighty labors of those like Peter and John and others who provided the material for the foundations of the wall of the Temple. The twelve gemstone foundations link with the twelve fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self-control, purity, compassion, easily entreated – without partiality and without hypocrisy (*Gal. 5:23, Jms. 3:17-18*). But observe that the twelve foundations are in and for the wall, the outer fortification. They were not foundations for the Temple itself. The fully redeemed Body of Christians are to make the material to be built inside the walls, through their overcoming and further proclaiming of the Word of God. Christ Jesus is Himself its foundation and is also to be the Head of the Corner, the finishing pinnacle (*Eph. 2:20*). The Apostles and Prophets of the early Church started the wall, but the end-time special ministers chosen by God are now to live and proclaim that which will produce the material to complete the Temple of the Body Christ is building (*Eph. 4:11-13*).

: 15 The “measuring rod” for the City (its wall and its gates) is of gold which represents the work of the Holy Spirit in His purging and refining, until all is *pure* gold, until only that which God has imparted remains. Likewise, all Christians are to be measured by this same “rod” of God (*Rev. 11:1*). They are being offered training to enable them to correspond to His standard, eventually the full stature of Jesus Christ (*Eph. 4:13*).

:16 The City is perfect in its measurements, the same in each dimension. It is a *perfect* cube, and the cube symbolizes the measure of truth, solidity and fullness realized. The three identical dimensions refer to what is real and actual, a full manifestation. The 12,000 unit length, width and height contain the number "12" which indicates the practice of discernment between selfish desire and the will of God. The add-on numerals "000" indicate that the manifestation of His sovereignty is completed in body, soul and spirit to the stage at which God can then rest.

:17 The wall also "measures up," being 144 units which is the product of 12×12 , the intensification of choice of that which is for the ultimate good (God's will) in protection and separation. At that time, the overcoming man's "measure" will be equal to the "measure" of an angel. As *matured* sons of God, men will be angel-like and equal to angels (*Lk. 20:36*).

In its higher phase, "12" pictures the completion of the cycle of totally overcoming sin through the conscious and joyful choice of that which is in God's plan for the ultimate good. It is the number God uses to symbolize the faculties and virtues to be achieved by man to qualify him for reentry into the Garden of Eden, man's perfection in the coming ages.

In the first portion of our study we saw the frequent use of "7" in the Letters, Churches, Seals, Trumpets, etc., and then gradually the number 12 dominates. The "7" denotes realization, but not perfection. And "12" denotes realization and not perfection – but of a different and higher order than "7." The "12" is spiritual discernment and spirit power achieved through sacrifice. The "7" is a *sum* of 3 plus 4, in which the 3 represents God and the 4 represents His creation, resulting in God added to man, the Creator added to His creature. This completion and union is an earthly one and is a temporal one. And so in the New Jerusalem, the union of God and man changes to "12," the *product* of 3×4 . The product is a union which God says can never be divided or separated, since in this the will of God for ultimate good has become the conscious choice of His sons. Men become what they think. That choice lays hold of them and transforms them, effecting a mature union. God and man are to become one in purpose and desire, even as Jesus Christ and His God are one (*Jn. 17:21*). This "12" is the number of Spirit power achieved through self-sacrifice and soul-realization, but also of Divine compassion.

:18 The wall is jasper, while the sheen of the City is pure gold, indicating that the view of the City (also shown as the Bride) and the whole complex is a view of the glory of the One on the Throne (*Rev. 4:3*). And that glory and light is experienced *inside* the protection and separation which the wall offers. That light must be clear to and integrated within the Christian, or he will attain no true and thorough separation and protection. Each and every Christian who aspires to reach the Holy City must be clear and unblemished in his soul. Only the pure in heart will see God. That purity *within* the soul structure is attained only by the process of burning out the desires which have been previously built in during past experiences. That purity is attained in a split second by the fire of the Holy Spirit Baptism, but it is to then be retained and maintained. Since Holy Spirit Baptism with Fire is the only way given by the Lord for producing that thorough a purity on earth, none but the truly Holy Spirit Baptized will be able to qualify for entering the New Jerusalem above.

But not all who claim Holy Spirit Baptism actually have it. Only those who have

instantaneously and consciously experienced the complete and thorough separation from and burning out of every desire into temptation can depend upon having had that baptism. Only those who subsequently maintain themselves in faithfulness and obedience and trust in the Father will He then elect to enter that City, when He comes to call His own to Himself.

Here let us touch upon a problem which, in some measure, each of us has. Without experiencing the impact of seeing *and* understanding the vital need of this purification in our person, these words flow in and out as mere words. It is when we understand we have to have it *now* that we will seek Him with all our mind, soul and strength. Then He will hear (*Jer. 29:13*).

During the windup of this age, our Lord will shake down everything which is not of God – not even the “good” things we have or do or offer can stand. If they are not initiated by Him, they are not sufficiently worthy to be used by Him (*Heb. 12:27, Isa. 2:12-19*). All Christians need to obtain the fullness of God’s work, but there is another and earlier work as well – that of reducing or cancelling out. All that a man can bring of himself to God is so much refuse. Man’s goodness, *his* intellect, *his* kindness, even *his* zeal alongside but actually not integrated with all of God’s plan, cannot be used by God (*Rev. 2:2-4, 19-23; 3:1-2*). All that is self-motivated in natural man must be eliminated to be replaced by God’s impartations for regeneration in spirit-will and in soul-desire and in body response, in order to be counted worthy (*Lk. 21:26, II Thess. 1:5, 11*). In the New Jerusalem, there is nothing which contains admixture, nothing that is not entirely of God. The gold of the City is like that refined in the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit’s workings, which leaves no impurity to cloud or veil the clarity of God and His purpose and plan (*I Cor. 13:12*).

The Epilogue

The Vital Necessity of Preparation

REVELATION 22

1 Inside the Holy City, John saw a river of pure, Life-giving water flowing from the Throne of God and of the Lamb. There is what might be termed glorified water in the celestial City. There are also trees, flowers and other types of growth that correspond on the celestial plane with the natural things on earth. (Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.) These objects of beauty, however, do not grow from seeds as they do on earth, but are formed by the molding of glorified substance-material through thought and emotion projection, and they are placed where the Master Designer has determined. Each individual saint in the New Jerusalem will have his own suite or “mansion” to then further fashion and mold according to his personal taste. The residence, gardens, streams, trees and all the scenery that a person may want can be fashioned in a sort of externalization of his inner beauty and character traits. Thus there will be infinite variety, as different as each person is different and with no limit on creative thought and inner soul dynamic. This creative ability will increase with time as skill is achieved and as the inner qualities within each saint become increasingly conformed to the perfection which intensifies the output of his developing “power generator” glands.

:2 Stretching to either side of the river of Life-giving water, John saw the Tree of Life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit and yielding a fresh crop every month. He saw it, as it were, growing in the middle and overhanging *both* sides of the river. In pattern, it is like the Tree of Life in the midst of the garden in **Genesis 2:9**. That Tree of Life is in the “garden” of the human body on earth as well. And its “fruit” or seed too can be used for strength and the leaves or desire (sun-gathering) for keeping and making well. As in heaven, so on earth. This tree which John saw is the celestial counterpart to the “tree of life” which is provided through Christ to sinful humans so that they might pass from death to life. Its fruit and leaves do not grow as on an earthly tree, but they gradually form through energy processes that are built into the tree. Such fruit is utilized by the inhabitants of the City for stepping up their own energy output in the function of their glorified bodies. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations, projecting the use of this tree, as well, into the earthly and the physical (both sides of the river). Just as medicinal value is found in trees and plants on earth, so it is in the heavenly archetype; for as in heaven, so it is on earth (**Matt. 6:10**). That which is earthly is patterned after that which is first in the heavenlies (**Heb. 9:23**).

Since the leaves in the celestial City are not directly available to earth men, the healing power which is to be available to earth must be channelled through the glorified saints who are ministering on earth. As natural healing comes through natural means of earth-produced remedies, so does supernatural healing come from that which is super-

natural. A glorified saint will have power to minister healing to an earthling through the supernatural life-substance that is contained in a leaf from the Tree of Life.

The Tree of Life is energized by the river of water of Life and the water flows out of the Throne of God which is established within the New Jerusalem.

:3 The Throne of God is the same as the Throne of the Lamb (*Rev. 22:1,3*), picturing the Divine-human nature of the Lord Jesus Christ. Being designated as the Throne of the Lamb, the initial timing of these operations is contextually placed during the period of the Great Tribulation. Subsequently, they will continue through those who are the redeemed of the Lamb. Before being incarnated in human flesh, the Spirit of Christ, as the mighty Yahweh (Jehovah), was God or Keeper of all the earth creation (*I Pet. 1:11*). When He emptied Himself and took on the form of a man, being incarnated in human flesh (*Phil. 2:6-8*), His mighty Father God took-over and became the active Keeper of all earth creation. Since the Father God gave His Son as the Lamb of God for humanity's redemption, it was then incumbent upon Him to actively oversee and *keep* the creation His Son was in process of redeeming. But when the redemption was completed, the Son resumed His God-role over the creation which He had first brought into being, and for which He gave Himself in totality as humanity's Redeemer (*Jn. 14:14*).

In His role as Redeemer, He is pictured as the Lamb of God (*Jn. 1:29,36; Rev. 5:12*). Until the primary redemptive cycle is complete and the Millennial Kingdom is fully inaugurated in the earth, He will continue to be seen as the Lamb. This is why His Throne, the focal point in the New Jerusalem, is called the Throne of God *and* of the Lamb. He is both the God (Keeper) and the Lamb (Redeemer or Purchaser) of the earth creation. But after returning as King, He then rules over the earthly Kingdom both as Creator-God Who brought all things into being (*Heb. 1:2, Jn. 1:3, Col. 1:16*) and as the Messiah-King, a glorified human of the house of David Who bought that Kingdom for Himself (*Lk. 1:32-33, 19:11-14*).

The Throne which the great Yahweh-Jesus will occupy when the New Jerusalem becomes the headquarters for rule over the earth is not the same as that upon which He has been seated with His Father during most of the past 2,000 years. The Throne which He has shared with His Father is in the highest heaven and is the focal point not only of the government and oversight of the earth, but of a vast universe. The New Jerusalem Throne is that which He now occupies in that City which has descended into the earth's upper atmosphere, as He begins His return in power and great glory, and it is that Throne which He has promised to share with the overcomers (*Rev. 3:21*).

As the *acting* God (Keeper) of earth life, Yahweh-Jesus has been on the right hand of the Father, until just recently (*Acts 2:34, 7:55; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1*). That mighty Father, the Majesty on High (*Heb. 1:3*), although not now actively engaged in the oversight of the earth affairs, is the God over all and the Keeper of a vast universe and of billions of spirit children in various stages of developing maturity. Nevertheless, to earthlings, Yahweh-Jesus is the only Creator, God and Redeemer. Beside Him there is none other who is God or Keeper of all the earth. As the one through Whom it was brought into being (*I Cor. 8:6*), He is responsible for it and continues to keep it (*Isa. 44:6-8, 43:10-13*).

:4-5 John saw no Temple in the City where the Lord God Almighty, the Lamb, is

its Temple (*Rev. 21:22*). A Temple is not needed in the City where He Whom the Temple represents is there in person. A physical Temple is an outward representation or manifestation of the Presence of the Lord among those who are not ready to dwell with Him in Person, just as the “living Temple” of the Lord is now made up of those who are indwelt by the Spirit and who are *being* made ready to dwell with the Lord in person. The Temple and the “living Temple” are to manifest His invisible presence in the earth, but when the Lord has made a person ready to live with Him in person, there is no more need for Him to be represented by a Temple or to spiritually indwell a “living Temple.” He will live personally, not representatively or spiritually, among His glorified saints and they shall see His face, and His own new “name” shall be in their foreheads (*Rev. 22:4, 3:12*). His name is symbolic of their complete identification with Him and His Kingly reign and of the impartation to them of that power-radiation necessary for their role of reigning with Him.

GOOD ADVICE

6 The *Book of Revelation* is perhaps the most important portion of the Testimony of Jesus Christ for us today (*Rev. 1:1, 19:10, 22:16*). It is a repeating of indicated content of the Old Testament (and so is Testimony – *Isa. 8:20*) and an authentic part of prophecy in Holy Scripture by every test.

:7-14 The indicators also cited by many portions of other Scriptures, point to a rapid completing of events leading into and then fulfilling the Great Tribulation pattern in the near future. Then the second bodily coming of our Lord Jesus Christ will climax these years of our generation. We are now well along in the most important decade in the history of the world during the past almost 2,000 years. Even the years during which Jesus Christ ministered to men and redeemed the world were preparatory for His work within this generation. Those who are willing and eager to keep the words of Jesus Christ with diligence and honest dedication and who *purify* themselves are heaven-bound. Those who wash their “garments,” putting on the righteousness of Christ and the purity of Christ (Holy Spirit Baptism), and then keep their garments white, will qualify to receive glorified bodies with the authority and right to approach the Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem.

:15 But all who rebel against the Word or are fearful of dedication to Jesus and His purifying (*Rev. 21:8*) are to be excluded from His heavenly Kingdom.

:16-21 Weigh the words most carefully; Jesus Christ is coming soon *for* those who are ready and watching, *to* those who are not quite ready, and *to confront* those still in rebellion. Therefore, hasten your work so that you might be among the overcomers who will be first partakers in the celestial City, being received by the Lord into the New Jerusalem when He comes to be glorified in His saints (*II Thess. 1:10*). Even now that City has descended into the earth’s upper atmosphere. Even now suites are being furnished for those who are making themselves ready, whether they be of the Bride company or among the guests called to the marriage supper (*Rev. 19:9*). Hasten to learn anew from *His* Word more about His whole plan for daily overcoming. Give heed to the voice of your God calling you to prepare. Listen now and believe, for surely the

time is at hand when all these things He has given you to know shall now come to pass.

REVELATION HELD BACK

Most Christians have had little to no exposure to the true content of the **Book of Revelation**. It has been neglected by the Churches and by their leaders. This is a misleading of the congregation by its leaders. Any leader in a Church of Jesus Christ, no matter how many degrees in Divinity, or years in service “in the cloth,” no matter how well he is loved and respected by his congregation, if he is not presenting the content of the **Book of Revelation** as it locks into the prophecies of *both* the Old and New Testament, is misleading his flock into being satisfied with that which is not adequate for our time.

There are many good and valuable facets of the Bible’s content which can be taken up for profitable study. So it was also in the days when Jesus came upon the Palestinian scene. They were so busy studying out the do’s and the don’ts and reviewing the wonderful promises to the Chosen People in the historical content of their Scriptures that they were not ready for what God had determined next to do – and they missed out on the whole show. Their people were killed and exiled and their land was ravished.

Today, we in the organized Church are likewise busy studying how we can be righteous before God without involving ourselves in His *whole* plan, how we can love Jesus without practice in conforming to His precise commandments, how we can minister to each other without first ministering to Him those things He requires, how we can overflow with joy without qualifying for His joy through absolute trust in Him, how we can bring others into our discipleship structure without first coming under the discipline of the whole of God’s Word, etc.

Study after study after study, all of them perhaps beneficial, but never quite getting at what God is up to right now on the world scene and requiring of every individual, in order to escape physical destruction within this decade and remain alive to undertake other beneficial studies. That is why anyone who is not now placing the message of the **Book of Revelation**, in all its detail and accuracy, before the people is being an unfaithful steward (**Rev. 22:10**). The Lord promised such a steward’s lot will be *with* the unbelievers during the Great Tribulation (**Lk. 12:46**). If he does not know what is God’s plan during our day, how can he lead a people into the only refuge there is? If he is confused by the Word of God in this vital portion of the words of Jesus Christ, how can he lead others out of his own darkness? Jesus said it is characteristic in the time of darkness (and the Church-world is so obviously still in great darkness) that the blind will lead the blind – into the ditch or pit!

Go to any congregation, Catholic, Protestant, or non-denominational and ask the leaders why they are not presenting a clear and continuous message on the content of the **Book of Revelation**. Depending on their answer, you can know what to expect from their leading – truth, or part-truth into outright untruth. There is no excuse to be found in the Bible for continuing to spend the next 3 years, or even 1 year, in the elementary teachings being presented (**Heb. 6:1**). Most congregations in the evangelistic mold get nothing but initial salvation messages week after week. Orthodox denomi-

nations follow themes that repeat every 52 weeks. Many charismatic groups have been futilely searching for God's next step. There is not enough good in any of these to allow their being substituted for the exposition of what God is fulfilling in our generation and which can *only* be grasped in application through a clarified understanding of the words of Jesus Christ in this final Revelation to man (**Rev. 22:6-7, 18, 19:9-10, 1:3; Matt. 4:4**). Of course, such understanding also forces an opening up of other portions of the Old and New Testament. And, interestingly enough, it forces a disclosure of the lies men have worked into their presentations on those other portions of the Bible.

Carefully evaluate where you are going to spend your listening *and* study time, for the period of fulfillment of all the prophecies of all the Prophets during all past ages is at hand (**Acts 3:21**). Few man-ordained "ministers of the Word" will participate in bringing about a constructive fulfillment, for most will be too busy creating and presenting "the next thing God now wants us to do." Satan has successfully deceived them (**Rev. 12:9, Matt. 24:24, Lk. 18:8**) into holding back the Revelation of Jesus Christ from your minds, so that your assignment also might be *with* the unbelievers in Great Tribulation (**Rev. 3:16; Prov. 18:9; Jer. 12:5, 48:10**).

Yes – it is true. Surely He is coming quickly and speedily. Amen. Yes, come Lord Jesus; come to be with all who have come out to set themselves apart for You to be exclusively Yours so as to be purified by You and remain so. Amen – so be it!

